

Deschutes County Commission Mid Grant Update

Jan 24, 2022



WWW.DESCHUTESCOLLABORATIVEFOREST.ORG

Agenda

- Introductions
- Thank you!
- Overview of DCFP
- Upcoming Investments in Forests and Fire Focus
- Organizational Opportunities
- Financial Overview - Mid grant cycle
- Summary/Q&A

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

- Forest restoration next to our communities is important to our economic growth, safety, and forest health
- DCFP continues to discover ways to build community support and trust in prescribed fire and forest restoration
- 19 Member Steering Committee Members:

Forest Products Industry John Williams, Quicksilver Contracting
Environmental Marilyn Miller, Miller Conservation Consulting
David Stowe, Sierra Club

Community Wildfire Protection Ed Keith, Project Wildfire
Bob Madden, Central Oregon Fire Chiefs

Tribal Vernon Wolf, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Watershed / Water Resources Rod Bonacker, Deschutes Land Trust
Corey Heath, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Local Government Sally Russell, Bend City Council
Phil Chang, Deschutes County

State & Federal Agency Bridget Moran, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gordon Foster Jr., Oregon Dept. of Forestry

Recreation / Tourism Melanie Fisher, Central Oregon Trail Alliance
Jana Johnson, Deschutes Trails Coalition

Private Landowners Chris Johnson, Whitefish Cascade Forest Resources

Researcher Vacant

At Large Glen Ardt, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (retired)
Loren Kellogg, OSU College of Forestry (retired)

How Does the DCFP Work?

Forest Restoration Planning Timeline in the Deschutes National Forest/Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project



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communities and firefighters safer.

STEP 1 THOUGHTFUL PLANNING



Step 1. U.S. Forest Service foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, archaeologists, botanists, and other experts work together with the public to prioritize where and what kind of restoration work should occur in the forest to improve wildlife habitat, create healthier forests and streams, and reduce wildfire risk, while minimizing potential negative impacts to recreation, wildlife, land or water.

STEP 2 CAREFUL LOGGING



Step 2. Removing some of the small and medium trees in the forest, also known as thinning, reduces competition for the limited amount of water in our dry environment on the east side of the Cascades, leaving more room for the remaining trees to grow. Clumps of un-thinned trees are left to provide places for wildlife to hide, while small openings between trees are created to allow snow to reach the ground, replenishing soils and streams, and allowing native grasses and wildflowers to flourish.

STEP 3 MOWING UNDERBRUSH



Step 3. In the absence of low-intensity fire, flammable shrubs like bitterbrush, manzanita, and snowbrush have filled in the forest floor, crowding out native grasses and wildflowers, and increasing the risk that fires climb into the canopies of trees. Mowing helps reduce this risk, creates space for native grasses and wildflowers to grow, and prepares the forest for the final step, controlled burning.

STEP 4 CONTROLLED BURNING



Step 4. Controlled burns, also known as prescribed fires, are conducted in the spring and fall by teams of experts under specific conditions of temperature, wind, and humidity, allowing for low-intensity fires that primarily move along the ground consuming needles, pine cones, branches, shrubs, and small trees. Controlled burns improve habitat for plants and animals that depend on fire, recycling nutrients, and sustaining a healthy forest ecosystem.

We Count on the Forest, Now the Forest is Counting on Us.

Interested in sharing this infographic? You can download it as a PDF [here!](#)

[Download PDF](#)

Deschutes National Forest Projects

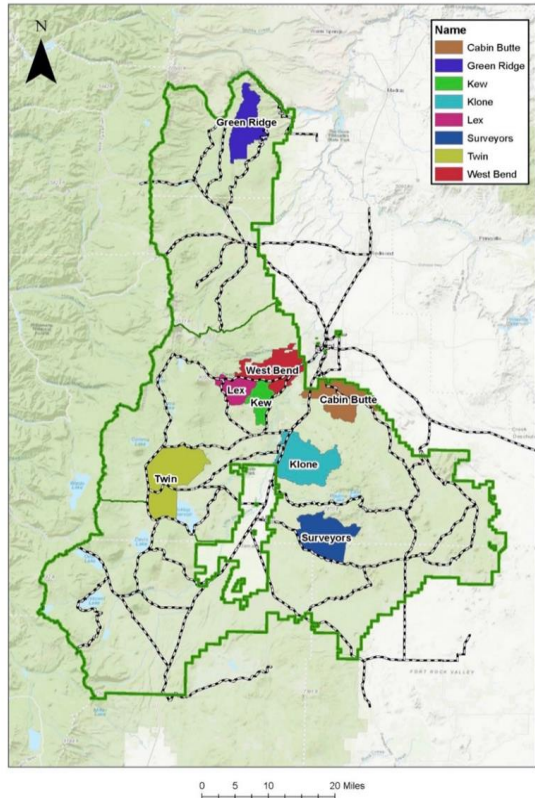
Deschutes National Forest Project Updates

DCFP Steering Committee
January 11, 2022

Deschutes National Forest Project Updates

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Deschutes National Forest Project Updates



Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District

West Bend Vegetation Management Project (EIS)

Project Information: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=34238

Current Status:

Peso IRSC: Awarded to Quicksilver Inc. Most units in Peso are Designation by Prescription. Work has not yet begun and will likely begin this summer.

Euro IRTC: Awarded to T2. Currently masticating and subsoiling in completed logging units. Some trail closures are in effect for public safety. Recreation closures will be in effect throughout the year based on most current operations. Logging operations are planned to resume spring 2022.

Ruble IRTC: Awarded to Interfor Inc. (now Gilchrist Forest Products). Work remains under contract with new ownership. Currently logging operations and some service work is occurring. In the near future, trail closures will be in place along portions of the Storm King trail for public safety throughout this fall and winter.

Zloty Timber Sale: Preparation work has been completed. Road work is underway on Forest Service road 4606 and 4609. Planned for sale in 2021/2022.

Lex Vegetation Management Project (EA)

Project Information: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47203

Current Status:

Oath II Timber Sale: Currently logging units near the 4613 road. Some snow mobile closures may occur this winter for public safety.

AKA Timber Sale: Awarded to Boulder Ridge LLC. Work has not yet begun.

Bail Timber Sale: Planned for sale in 2022. This sale did not meet the financial measures for Good Neighbor Authority and is currently planned as an IRSC.

Kew Vegetation Management Project (EA)

Project Information: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47326

Current Status:

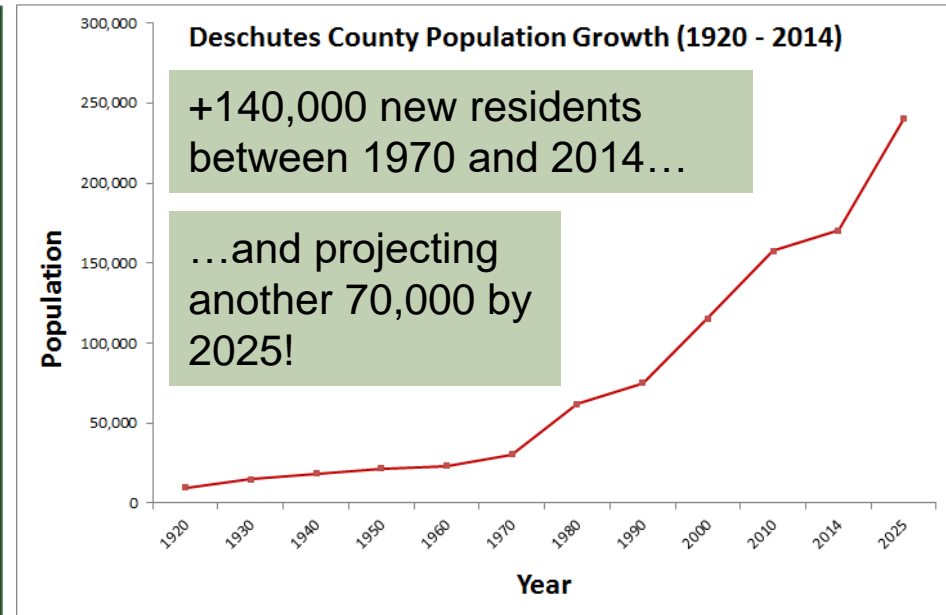
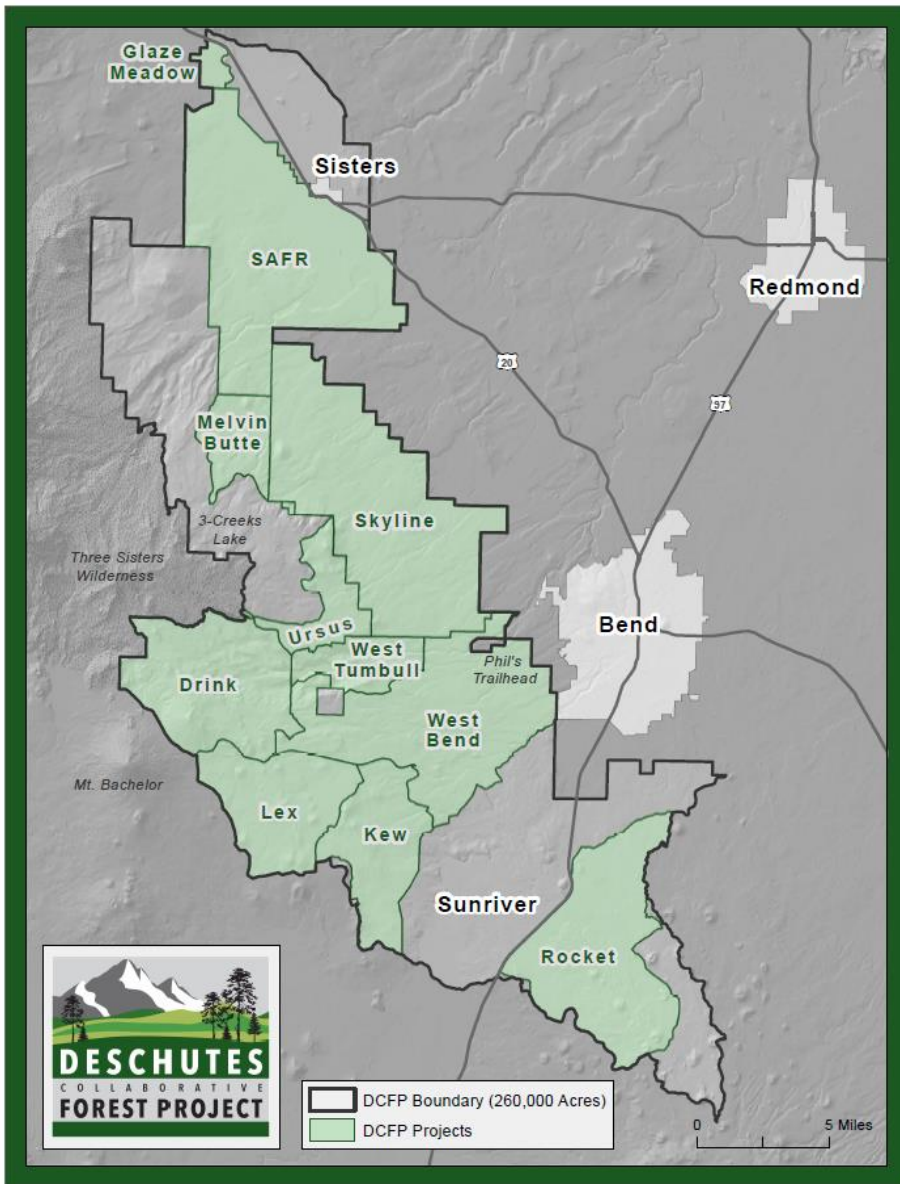
Vine Timber Sale: Awarded to Gilchrist Forest Products. Work has not yet begun.

Lily DXP Timber Sale: Preparation is complete. Planned to sell in FY2022. Will utilize both tree marking and Designation by Prescription.

Sage Timber Sale: Preparation is ongoing. Planned to sell in 2023. Will utilize both tree marking and Designation by Prescription.

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A Human Dominated Landscape

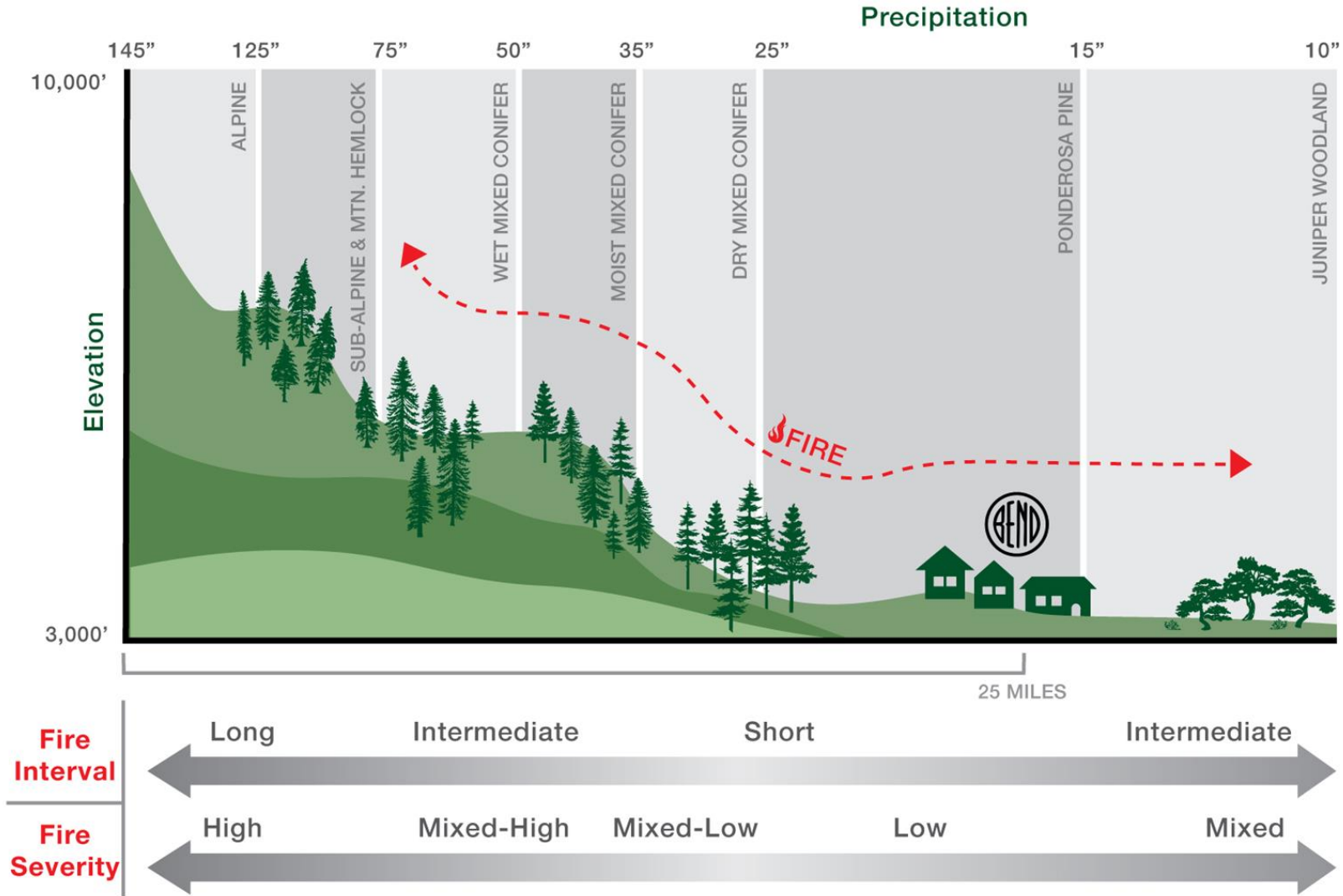


Total visitor-days in Bend: summer, winter & annual averages (assuming +/-10% margin of error)	4,930,000 - 6,030,000
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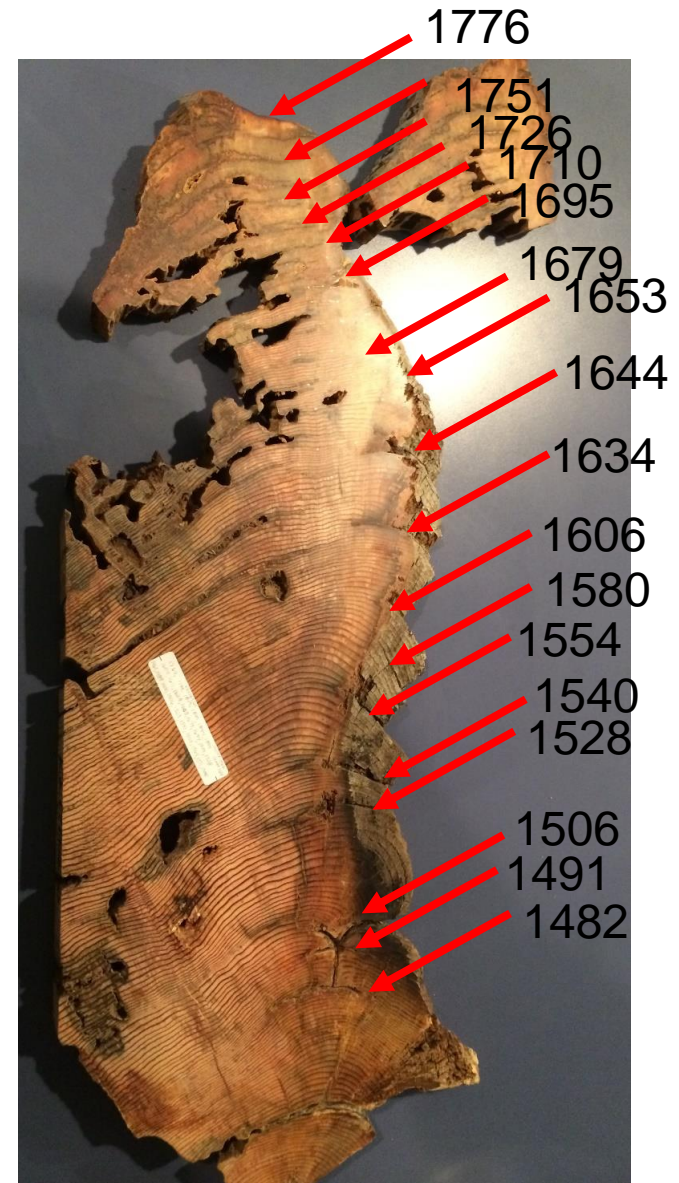
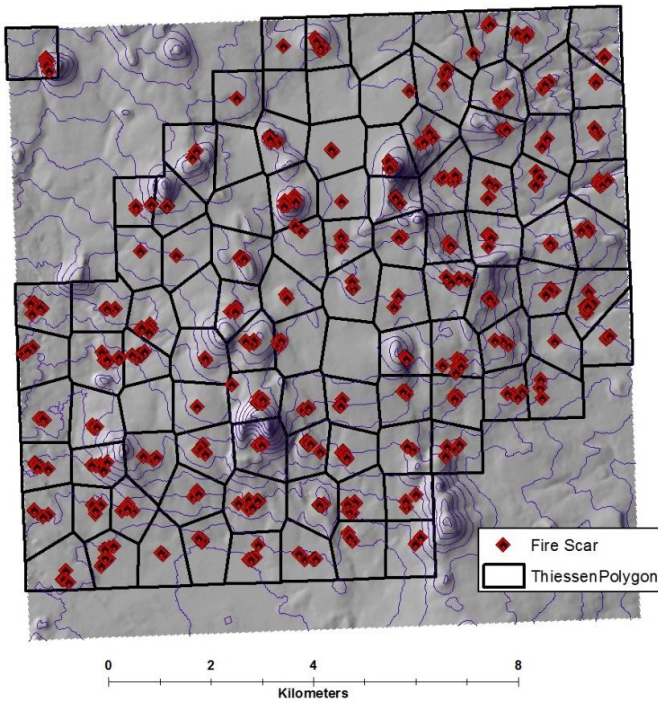
- ~50% hiking/trail running
- ~30% cycling
- ~25% paddling
- ~15% camping

~15,000 visitor/days per day YEAR ROUND!

Forest Systems of the East Cascades



Reconstructing Historical Fire Regimes



Key Takeaways

Fire was an integral part of the landscape for centuries – but suppressed for past 100+ years.

We need resilient landscapes and fire adapted communities.

More of our population and property are at risk.

The lower elevation forests – and the plants and animals that live in them – need frequent, low intensity fire to remain healthy.

Our communities are now on the very edge of the forest.



Ponderosa Pine

More Collaborative Forest Work & Prescribed Fire Will Decrease Fire Risk

- Rosland Road Fire was reported around 2pm on July 18th, 2020
- Located NE of La Pine adjacent to Newberry Estates Subdivision
- North winds and low relative humidity drove intense burning, 800'+ spotting distances and rapid fire growth
- Forward progress was stopped when the fire ran into fuels treatment units that were underburned in early May 2019



Public Perceptions of Prescribed Fire



Prescribed Fire benefits
outweigh the impacts

Immediately after prescribed burn,
located behind Tetherow community

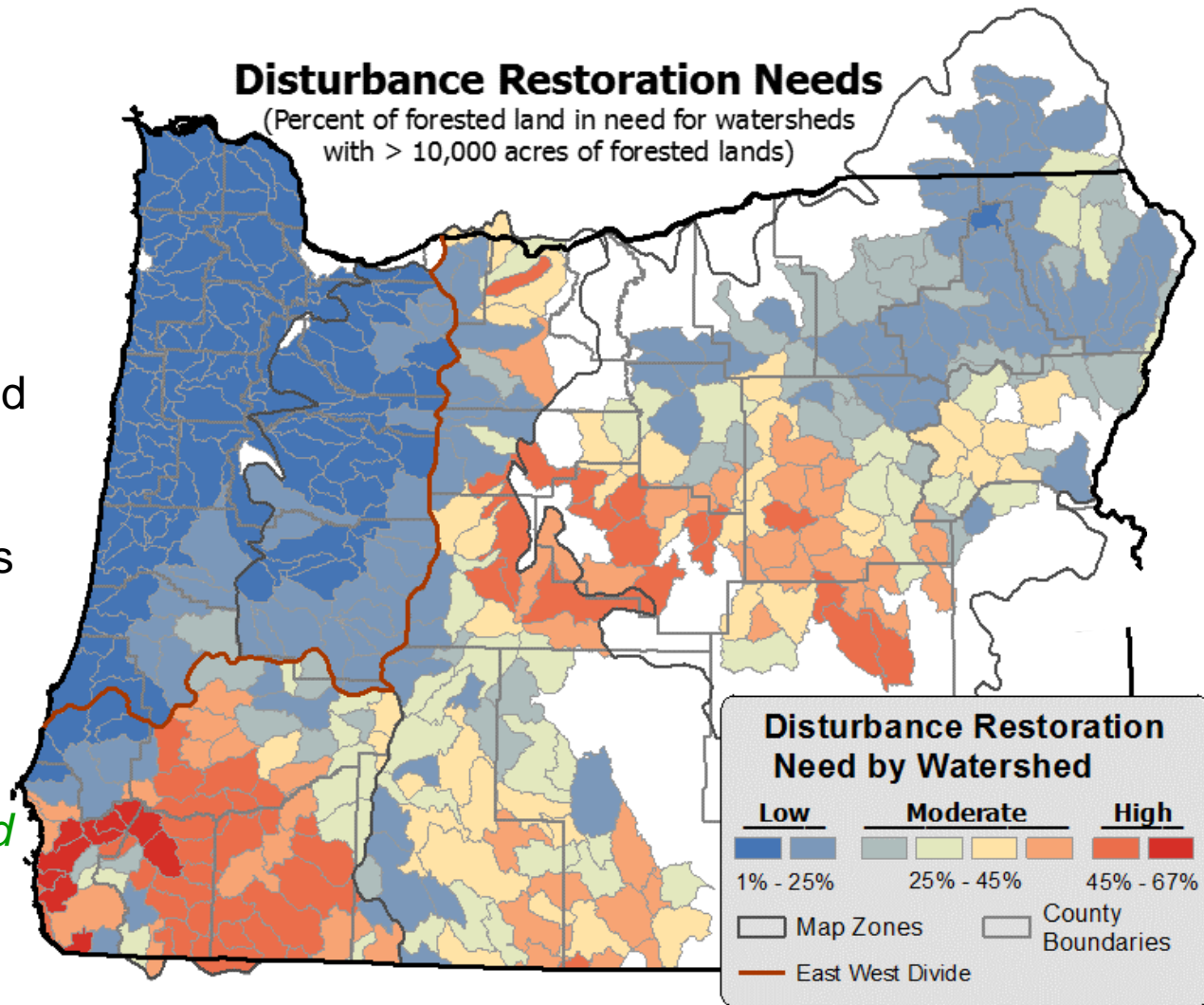
Same trail, one year after prescribed fire

Scale of Forest Restoration Needed

Restoration is urgently needed on >450k acres in the Deschutes National Forest alone.

The Deschutes has over 120,000 acres of prescribed burning planned. At the current rate it will take us 20 years to get through this “shelf stock.”

To mimic natural low intensity fires on DNF, we need to conduct prescribed burning on ~20k acres/year.



Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

Transitioning into the Future

Search for next Executive Director.

Interim Consultant - Strategic & Financial background. Deep interest in Deschutes Collaborative work and role of fire and community fire safety.

Goal: Keep DCFP focussing on key work during organizational assessment period.

...After 11 years of great work, with so many opportunities ahead... It's time!!



DCFP – Deschutes County Grant

\$20,000 July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

\$10,000 Received

\$10,000 Mid-year Update

DCFP Allocations:	Total Budget	Spent to Date
Facilitation and Coordination	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Administration Support:	\$5,500.00	\$ 252.75
Outreach:	\$3000.00	\$ _____

\$8,752.75

Remaining: \$11,247.25

Opportunities Heading Our Way

- Ongoing grant opportunities with existing programs.
- State Funding - SB 762
- Federal Funding – Focussed on Wildfire, Healthy Forests and Safe Communities work.



Summary/Q&A

- Forest restoration is critical to the health of the forest and our communities.
- With your support, through its collaborative work the DCFP will continue to build broad public trust and work with partners and stakeholders to support projects in the Deschutes National Forest next to our communities.
- Most funding opportunities will need matching grant dollars...
- Deschutes County Lottery Dollars keep the DCFP working while preparing for these significant investments

Common Messages from DCFP

- Our forests and the plants and animals that live there, need low intensity fire to remain healthy
- Our local economy depends on our forests
 - Jobs, clean air/water, open spaces, recreation, etc.
- Community safety is directly linked to forest health
- Increasing forest restoration with prescribed fire treatments require broad community support



Thank you!

